



# Department of Mental Health (DMH) Rental Subsidy Program

**Please support FY21 funding in the amount of \$10.548M for DHCD line item 7004-9033**

**The needs of people with serious and disabling mental health conditions are urgent.**

**The time is NOW to:**

- Discharge the 194 patients whose inpatient treatment course is complete and no longer qualify for acute care yet are stuck in psychiatric hospital facilities because of lack of supportive housing.
- House the 3,340 people with serious mental health conditions that experience homelessness on any single night in Massachusetts (US Department of Housing & Urban Development, 2019).
- Move people out of congregate settings – like shelters, jails, and state hospitals – to protect their health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Stop paying \$1,127.70 per day for unnecessary days in state psychiatric hospitals, and \$35,578 per year for the direct and indirect costs of chronic homelessness (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2015).
- End emergency department boarding for people waiting for beds to open in psychiatric inpatient units.

*“Without a safe, affordable place to live, it is almost impossible to achieve good health or to achieve one’s full potential.”*

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

**This request is \$3 million above Governor Baker’s FY21 revised H2 budget recommendation, with \$2 million for annualization of FY20 commitments (which are not included in H2) and an additional \$1M for new rental subsidies to house 71 individuals who are homeless or awaiting discharge from hospitals.**